# STUDIES IN AMERICAN ORCHIDS VII

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Previous numbers of this series have been published as follows: I.: in Can. Journ. Bot. 34: 241-260, 1956; II.: ibid. 34: 721-743, 1956; III.: in Bot. Mus. Leafl. Harv. Univ. 18: 103-108, 1958; IV.: ibid. 18: 186-218, 1958; V.: in "Caldasia" 8: 517-529, 1962; VI.: in Bot. Mus. Leafl. Harv. Univ. 21: 249-264, 1967.

**Vanilla rubra** (Lam.) Urb. in Fedde Rep. Beih. 5: 157, 1920.
Basionym: *Epidendrum rubrum* Lam. Encycl. 1: 178, 1783.
Synonym: *Vanilla Poitaei* Rchb. f. in Linnaea 41: 66. 1876.

Both binomials, *Vanilla rubra* and *Vanilla Poitaei*, have been a source of confusion. Lamarck based his *Epidendrum rubrum* in 1783 on Plumier's description: "Vanille flore albo, fructu breviori, corallino" and "Vanille flore violaceo, fructu breviori, rubro". (Gen. p. 25). In 1827, Descourtilz illustrated Lamark's species in Fl. Pittor. & Med. Antill. 5: t. 362, in having greenish sepals and petals and a whitish lip. The fruit was depicted as coral-red. The inflorescence is shown as an elongated branch, floriferous at the apex and carrying mature, 5 cm. long, fruits at the base. The vine itself is leafy. It is noted from Santo Domingo.

In 1876, Reichenbach described *Vanilla Poitaei* also from Santo Domingo. According to the drawing mounted on the sheet with the holotype this species is represented by a leafless branch (apparently the inflorescence) with six buds and an opened flower at its apex, and with a short, 8 cm. long, fruit at its base. The lip is described and depicted as being dark purple in color.

An examination of the holotype of *Vanilla Poitaei* establishes without doubt that it is not distinct specifically from *Vanilla rubra*. Moreover, there are no other red-flowered vanillas in the West Indies so far as I know.

**Elleanthus Kalbreyeri** Garay, nom. nov.

Basionym: *Elleanthus longibracteatus* Krzl. in Notizbl. Bot. Gart. Berlin 7: 450, 1920, not Fawc. 1893.

*Elleanthus longibracteatus* Krzl. is a later homonym, hence the above proposed new name. This species is closely related to *E. columnaris* Rchb. f.

**Elleanthus lancifolius** Presl, Rel. Haenk. 97, 1827.

Synonym: *Elleanthus laxus* Schltr. in Fedde Rep. 12: 213, 1913.
*Elleanthus ampliflorus* Schltr. in Fedde Rep. Beih. 27: 13, 1924.

There appears to be no appreciable difference among *E. lancifolius*, *E. laxus* and *E. ampliflorus* to warrant any separation. This species is known from Costa Rica, Panamá, Colombia and Ecuador.

**Pleurothallis cardiothallis** Rchb. f. in Bot. Zeit. 15: 158, 1857.

Synonym: *Pleurothallis acutipetala* Schltr. in Fedde Rep. 10: 353, 1912.
*Pleurothallis costaricensis* Schltr. in Beih. Bot. Centralbl. 36, pt. 2: 395, 1918.
*Pleurothallis Schlechteriana* Ames, Sched. Orch. 2: 24, 1923.

This rather commom Central American species, known from Mexico, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua and Costa Rica is now recorded from the main-land of South America, Colombia: Dept. Antioquia, Yarumal. Coll. G. Escobar R. Nº 141.

**Pleurothallis excelsa** Garay, sp. nov.

Epiphytica, caespitosa, usque ad 60 cm. alta; radicibus crassiusculis, paululo flexuosis, glabris; caulibus secundariis robustiusculis, dimidio inferiori vaginis chartaceis obtectis, 19 cm. altis; folio coriaceo, ovato-lanceolato, utrinque attenuato, acuto, sessili, usque ad 22 cm. longo, 5 cm. lato; inflorescentiis arcuatis, laxe multifloris; floribus carnosiusculis, pro genere maximis, pendulis, purpurascentibus; sepalo postico anguste ovato-lanceolato, acuto, 5-nervato, 5 cm. longo, 1 cm. lato; sepalis lateralibus anguste ovato-lanceolatis, inter se usque ad apicem connatis, valde cochleatis, margine involutis, 5 cm. longis, 1.2 cm. latis; petalis carnosis, ovatis, apice acutis, 3-nervatis, 2 cm. longis, 0.8 cm. latis; labello e cochleata basi anguste oblongo, valde carnoso, margine revoluto, 4.5 cm. longo, supra basin 0|8 cm. lato; columna crassa, 1.2 cm. alta.

COLOMBIA: Without proper locality. Cultivated by Mr. Alvaro Mejía, s. n. in Medellín. Type! (AMES).

This new species belongs to the affinity of *P. Fritillaria* and *P. restrepioides*, differing from them in having flowers twice as large and long attenuated sepals.

**Platystele Johnstonii** (Ames) Garay, comb. nov.

Basionym: *Pleurothallis Johnstonii* Ames, Orchid. 2: 271, 1908.

This exceedingly rare species, originally described from Island of Margarita, has been found for the first time on the mainland of South America in Venezuela: rainforest of Guatopo, 2300 ft. alt. It was collected by Mr. G. C. K. Dunsterville Nº 51. This species is easily recognizable by its long-caudate dorsal sepal and ecaudate lateral sepals.

**Platystele propinqua** (Ames), Garay, comb. nov.

Basionym: *Pleurothallis propinqua* Ames, Sched. Orch. 6: 68, 1923.

This Costa Rican species, obviously a member of the genus *Platystele*, is now recorded from Colombia: Dept. Norte de Santander, Cordillera Oriental, south of Ábrego, 2940 m. alt. Coll.: F. J. Hermann Nº 10918.

**Platystele xiphochila** (Rchb. f.) Garay, comb. nov.

Basionym: *Pleurothallis xiphochila* Rchb. f. in Linnaea 22: 831, 1849.

*Platystele xiphochila* is closely related to *P. acutilingua* Kapuler & Hascall from Colombia, but differs from it in its broad petals and fleshy lip.

**Lepanthopsis serrulata** (Cogn.) Hespenheide & Garay, comb. nov.

Basionym: *Lepanthes serrulata* Cogn. in Urb. Symb. Antill. 6: 694, 1910.

An examination of the holotype of *Lepanthes serrulata* indicates that it is referable to the genus *Lepanthopsis*. This rare species has been rediscovered in April 1966 by Mr. D. Dod, s. n. on trees overhanging the river near Jarabacoa, Dominican Republic.

**Masdevallia bulbophyllopsis** Krzl. in Fedde Rep. 17: 412, 1921.

Synonym: *Masdevallia remotiflora* Krzl. in Fedde Rep. 17: 415, 1921.

Notwithstanding the fact that Kraenzlin published both *M. bulbophyllopsis* and *M. remotiflora* in the same paper, upon examining the holotype specimens I failed to detect any difference between them.

**Masdevallia heteroptera** Rchb. f. in Gard. Chron. n. s. 3: 590, 1875.

Synonym: *Masdevallia fasciata* Rchb. f. in Gard. Chron. n.s. 15: 202, 1881.
*Masdevallia bathychista* Schltr. in Fedde Rep. Beih. 7: 76, 1920.
*Masdevallia fissa* Krzl. in Fedde Rep. 17: 429, 1921.
*Masdevallia restrepioidea* Krzl. in Notizbl. Bot. Gart. Berlin 8: 134, 1922.
*Masdevallia palmensis* Krzl. in Kew Bull. 100, 1925.

*Masdevallia heteroptera* is a variable species as the above listed synonyms indicate. An examination of the holotype specimen of each shows that we are dealing with only one species.

**Masdevallia velutina** Rchb. f. in Gard. Chron. n. s. 4: 420, 1875.

Synonym: *Masdevallia microglochin* Rchb. f. in Flora 69: 555, 1886.
*Masdevallia lactea* Krzl. in Fedde Rep. 17: 420, 1921.

A comparison of the holotypes of *M. velutina*, *M. microglochin* and *M. lactea* with each other has shown them to be identical. Consequently they are treated here as one.

**Epidendrum bracteolatum** Presl, Rel. Haenk. 100, 1827.

Synonym: *Epidendrum collare* Lindl. in Bot. Reg. 29: Misc. p. 60, 1843.
*Epidendrum leucopyramis* Lehm. & Krzl. in Engl. Bot. Jahrb. 26: 459, 1899.

The holotype of *E. bracteolatum* in the Prague Herbarium clearly shows that both *E. collare* and *E. leucopyramis* are referable to it. Lindley's reduction of *E. bracteolatum* to synonymy of *E. ibaguense* is definitely erroneous.

**Epidendrum infaustum** Rchb. f. in Hamb. Gartenz. 19: 13, 1863.

Synonym: *Epidendrum iguapensis* Schltr. in Anex. Mem. Inst. Butan. 1, pt. 4: 61, 1922.

A comparison of the holotypes of both *E. infaustum* and *E. iguapensis* failed to show any distinction to justify their separation.

**Epidendrum jejunum** Rchb. f. in Otia Bot. Hamb. 12, 1878.

Synonym: *Epidendrum Cuatrecasasii* Garay in Can. Journ. Bot. 34: 255, 1956.

When I described *E. Cuatrecasasii* no record of the type of *E. jejunum* was available to me. After having examined the type of *E. jejunum* in the Reichenbach herbarium I am convinced that my species is conspecific with it, This is a rare species, having been recorded only from Ecuador: Rio Yaguachi, and from Colombia: Rio Calima, both at low elevations.

**Epidendrum vernixium** Rchb. f. & Warsc. in Bonpl. 2: 110, 1854.

Synonym: *Epidendrum scytocladium* Schltr. in Fedde Rep. Beih. 7: 149, 1920.

Although the holotype specimen of *E. vernixium* is from Peru, there is another specimen mounted with it on the same sheet in the Reichenbach Herbarium from Colombia, collected by Triana Nº 298. *Epidendrum scytocladium* Schltr., also from Colombia, appears to be conspecific with *E. vernixium.*

**Maxillaria ochracea** (Rchb. f.) Garay, comb. nov.

Basionym: *Ornithidium ochraceum* Rchb. f. in Gard. Chron. ser. 3, 1: 209, 1887.

This rare Colombia species, a close relative of *M. ramosa* Ruiz & Pav. has not yet been transferred to the genus *Maxillaria.* I have found it recently in the vicinity of Frontino, Dept. Antioquia.

**Odontoglossum narthecioides** (Krzl.) Garay, comb. nov.

Basionym: *Cyrtochilum narthecioides* Krzl. in Pflanzenr. IV, 50, Heft 80: 82, 1922.

I do not agree with Kraenzlin in transfering section *Myanthium* of *Odontoglossum* to the genus *Cyrtochilum.* Consequently the above transfer is necessary. This species has been recollected in Colombia recently by Mr. Helmuth Schmidt-Mum of Bogotá.

**Sigmatostalix auriculata** Garay, sp. nov.

Epiphytica, caespitosa, usque ad 10 cm. alta; radicibus filiformibus, flexuosis, glabris; pseudobulbis anguste ovoideis, monophyllis, 1.5 cm. altis; foliis linearibus, acutiusculis, usque ad 8.5 cm. longis, 0.3 cm. latis; inflorescentiis capillaribus, remotifloris, usque ad 7 cm. longis; floribus tenuibus, glabris; sepalis liberis, reflexis, inter se simillimis, lanceolato-oblongis, acutis, 3-nervatis, 5 mm. longis, 1 mm. latis; petalis reflexis, lanceolatis, acutis, 3-nervatis, 5 mm. longis, 1.5 mm. latis; labello longe unguiculato, ungue carinato-callifero, deinde dilatato, utrinque auriculato, auriculis falcatis, obtusis; lamina in ambitu trapezoideo-panduriformi, antice subrotundata, in medio excisa, margine supra basin crenulata, apicem versus integra; disco basin callo crasso ornato; toto labello ungue incluso 7 mm. longo, antice 7 mm. lato; columna gracili, arcuata, 7 mm. longa; ovario pedicellato 6 mm. longo.

COLOMBIA: Dept. de Caldas; Pueblo Rico. Coll. Gilberto Escobar R. Nº 60. Type! (AMES).

This new *Sigmatostalix* is closely related to *S. Huebneri* Mansf. but differs from it in having a long claw to the lip, a different callus and much narrower leaves.

**Sigmatostalix Brownii** Garay, sp. nov.

Epiphytica, caespitosa, usque ad 15 cm. alta; radicibus filiformibus, flexuosis, glabris; pseudobulbis ovoideis, lateraliter compressis, unifoliatis, 3 cm. longis, 0.8 cm. latis; foliis anguste lanceolato-oblongis, acutis, basi attenuatis, 8 - 12 cm. longis, 0.3 - 0.5 cm. latis; inflorescentiis capillaribus, glomerulo paniculatis, usque ad 9 cm. longis; bracteis ovatis, acutis, 1 mm. longis; floribus tenuibus, glabris; sepalo postico lanceolato-oblongo, subacuminato, 3-nervato, 3 mm. longo, 1 mm. lato; sepalis lateralibus deflexis, sepalo postico simillimis, 3-nervatis, paululo obliquis, 3 mm. longis, 1 mm. latis; petalis lineari-falcatis, acutis, 2.5 mm. longis, 0.5 mm. latis; labello genuflexo, basi calloso-incrassato, deinde recurvo, antice obspathulato, obtuso cum apiculo, disco supra basin cornubus 2 ante callum donato, toto labello 3 mm. longo, antice 1.5 mm. lato; columna gracili, leviter arcuata, apice utrinque brachiis lineari-falcatis ornata; ovario pedicellato 2 mm. longo.

PANAMA: Without proper locality. Cultivated by Mr. Henry Brown, Miami. Type! (AMES).

This new species is closely allied to *S. amazonica* Schltr. from which it differs in the size of the flowers and the callosity of the lip. It is named

in honor of Mr. Henry Brown, an ardent grower and collector of orchid species.

**Rusbyella pusilla** (C. Schweinf.) Garay, comb. nov.

Basionym: *Buesiella pusilla* C. Schweinf. in Bot. Mus. Leafl. Harv. Univ. 15: 153, 1952.

In describing *Buesiella pusilla*, Mr. Schweinfurth stated that: "This little plant is remarkable for having flowers with an apparent lack of both a viscid disc and caudicles to the pollinia. It is referable to Schlechter's *Pleuranthae* and it appears to be allied to his subtribe *Bulbophylleae*". Having examined the holotype specimen, I find the above statement to be at variance with the actual material. It is true that each anther examined contained two pollinia without stipes and gland. This situation, however, was due to its preservation, because in each flower the gland and the stipe remained attached to the rostellum on the column. Moreover, both the vegetative and floral morphology are characteristic for the earlier described genus *Rusbyella* of the subtribe *Oncidiinae*.

**Sphyrastylis ecuadorensis** Garay, sp. nov.

Epiphytica, ascendenti, usque ad 15 cm. alta; radicibus crassiusculis, leviter flexuosis, glabris; caulibus suberectis, dense multifoliatis; foliis carnosis, falcato-ensiformibus, articulatis, basi vaginatis imbricatisque, cum vaginis 5-7 cm. longis, 0.5-0.6 cm. latis; inflorescentiis ex axillis foliorum superiorum natis, pendulis; pedunculis muricato-hispidulis, 5-7 cm. longis, superne satis dense multifloris; bracteis ovatis vel ovato-lanceolatis, acutis, margine crenulatis, 4-5 mm. longis, 2 mm. latis; floribus luteoviridibus, semicarnosis, ringentibus; sepalis inter se simillimis, ellipticis, apice rotundatis, uninervis, dorsaliter pauci-muriculatis, 2.5-3 mm. longis, 1.7-2 mm. latis; petalis orbicularibus, uninervis, 2.5-3 mm. longis latisque; labello e cuneata basi obovato subpandurato, in medio valde constricto, parte apicali labelli transverse reniformi, apice subemarginata, parte basilari callo transverso in medio leviter exciso ornata, toto labello 4 mm. longo, antice 3 mm. lato; columna humili, 1 mm. alta; rostello 2 mm. longo; ovario muriculato.

Ecuador: Prov. Napo Pastaza, banks of the Cosanga River at 6000 ft. elevation. Coll.: Jameson s. n. in 1857. Type! (W).

This new species is closely related to *S. oberonioides* Schltr., but differs from it in the shape of its lip and petals. The genus is new to Ecuador.

**Pterostemma calceolaris** Garay, sp. nov.

Epiphytica, caespitosa, usque ad 7 cm. alta; radicibus filiformibus, flexuosis, glabris; caulibus valde abbreviatis; foliis equitantibus, anguste lanceolato-falcatis, acutis vel subacuminatis, basi vaginis articulatis inter se imbricantibus, vaginis inclusis, 3-4 cm. longis, 0.3-0.4 cm. latis; inflorescentiis ex axillis foliorum superiorum natis, gracilibus, 6 cm. longis; pedunculo filiformi, 1-2-bracteolato; rhachide satis compacto, bracteis cucullato-ovatis, acutis, distichis donatis, 0.7 cm. longis; floribus succedaneis, tenuibus, glabris; sepalo postico anguste ovato, acuto 5-nervato, 8 mm. longo, 3 mm. lato; sepalis lateralibus anguste oblongo-falcatis, acutis, 5-nervatis, 10 mm. longis, 2 mm. latis; petalis subspathulato-filiformibus, acutis, 3-nervatis, 8 mm. longis, 1.5 mm. latis; labello calceoliformi, subgloboso, subtrilobo, lobis lateralibus obtusis incurvis, lobo intermedio triangulari, reflexo, disco sub apice carina valde elevata, digitiformi ornata, 6 mm. longo latoque; columna humili, crassa, 4 mm. alta; ovario pedicellato muriculato.

PERU: Dept. Loreto, vicinity of Iquitos, alt. 100 m. on dead tree; flowers light and dark violet. July 1937. Coll.: G. Klug Nº 10106 Type! (AMES).

This is the second species of this poorly known genus. It differs from *P. antioquiense* Krzl. in having a deeply saccate lip as well as equitant leaves which are arranged in the form of a fan.